



## Welcome to NewSound, St. John's Children's Music Ministry!

NewSound will emphasize St. John's mission of *Loving God, Loving People and Changing Lives* by teaching children to worship through singing. Our goal is to create a lifelong desire to worship God through song and NewSound is the first step. Children who participate in NewSound choirs will have fun singing, playing instruments and developing their musical skills. These skills will form a cornerstone for their later participation in youth and adult church choirs. Children will also learn that singing is both fun and an act of worship. They will learn to share their musical skills as worship leaders by participating frequently in worship, not as *performers*, but as *leaders*!

The NewSound Children's Music Ministry consists of the NewSound Family Music Program and the NewSound Children's Choirs.

The NewSound Family Music program is for children ages 2 – 4 and a care-giver. (4-yr old children, who turn 4 prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> are to be enrolled in the Choir Program.) Each child must have a dedicated adult care-giver in each class. Adult care-givers are as much a part of the class as the children! The Family Music class meets on Wednesday afternoons 5:15 – 6:00.

The NewSound children's choir program has three graded choirs, Prelude, Psaltery and Cantate.

**Prelude** is for children age 4 (by September 1) and Pre-Kindergarten. The children will enjoy discovering their singing voice while learning age-appropriate songs about God. The children will look forward to this weekly time with their choir friends and leaders as they sing, explore, play games and have fun with instruments. Prelude will focus on musical exploration and early music skills. They will present short programs to their families in December and May.

**Psaltery** is for children in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The children in Psaltery will enjoy developing their young musician skills, as they use their singing voices together to sing God's praises. The children will have fun singing, playing instruments and participating in musical games. Psaltery will serve as worship leaders and sing once a month during service.

**Cantate** is for children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. In Cantate, the fun continues while learning more advanced musical skills. [The games, and the music, are more challenging... and more fun! Cantate will be active in worship leadership by singing at least monthly during worship services. They will also sing with other St. John's musical groups throughout the year. Cantate will also participate in the Service of Lessons and Carols during Advent, and other special worship services and community events.

### **NewSound Choir Rehearsals**

NewSound rehearsals will be Wednesday afternoon beginning at 5:00 p.m with a Drum Circle and parents are welcome. All choirs will rehearse 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Thank you for the time we get to share with your children. In order to make the best use of our time we ask that you please do your best to bring your children on time to choir. Children will be taken to the Kid's Bible Club at 6:00 and you can pick them up at 7 pm. If your child(ren) are not attending Bible Club, please pick up your child promptly at the end of rehearsal.

### **Online Resources**

We have a wonderful new website! Go to [musicatstjohns.org](http://musicatstjohns.org) to check it out! We will post announcements, sound files, song lyrics, etc. It is also **THE** place to go to check out our calendar. We keep it up to date! We do sometimes have to make changes to the calendar throughout the semester. So, bookmark this site!

### **Child Care for Teachers and Volunteers**

Child care is available for teachers and volunteers. If you are volunteering in the classroom, you will have a place for your young child! Youth (children 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up) will not have “care” available during NewSound, however there are youth programs beginning at 6 pm.

Child Care is available for families enrolled in the NewSound Family Music Program.

### **Volunteering**

The NewSound Children’s Music Ministry is a volunteer-run program! ***We need your help.*** Between potty breaks and paperwork, we have many opportunities to serve and show value to the next generation of our church family.

### **Safe Sanctuaries**

St. John’s is a Safe Sanctuaries church. We do background checks on all volunteers and staff and we annual require training for anyone working with children. The training is offered by this church and backed by the New Mexico Annual Conference and lasts about an hour. We ask that all volunteers complete the background check paper work and attend the training whenever it is made available. In addition, there is an annual covenant that reasserts your qualifications for working with children and youth at St. John’s. If you have not completed the paperwork and training, then you will not be allowed to be alone with the children in the classroom. Paperwork is available at the church office, or you can send Brandie Spletzer an email at [bspletzer@stjohns-abq.org](mailto:bspletzer@stjohns-abq.org) to request a packet. We wish that this program was not necessary, but our modern world has left many places unsafe for children and youth. St. John’s is committed to being a safe and healthy place for you and your children.

### **Behavior**

NewSound has five simple rules for choristers. They are:

- Be Polite. We are polite to 1) him/her self; 2) friends, directors and assistants; and 3) the instruments and equipment. Politeness encourages kindness and safety.
- Be Prompt: We are on time. Children have no control over this one! Please help by getting your child to rehearsal on time!
- Be Positive: We only use words that support each other and our own person.
- Be Prepared: We are ready to sing. We don’t bring toys to class. (Children in NewSound Family Music are permitted to bring a snuggle friend.) We stop at the restroom and get a drink before coming to class.
- Be Productive: We positively participate the best we can.

### **Emergency Contact**

In the event that a child needs to be picked up, we must have a contact number for someone to immediately come and pick up the child. Children under the age of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, are not permitted to be at the church without a parent / guardian or other responsible adult. Older siblings that are under 18, are considered to be youth and cannot pick up younger siblings. An adult must pickup / dropoff children. (These restrictions our required by our Safe Sanctuary covenant. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for our children and youth!)

### **Children with Special Needs**

We are an inclusive church. We are an inclusive music ministry. God wants everyone’s voice lifted in praise and song. If your child has special needs, of any kind, please let us know. We have trained staff available to work with your child. We will do everything we can to include and accommodate your child. If you have been blessed with the skills to work with those with special needs, please consider helping NewSound.

### **Thank You!**

We appreciate the time that we get to share with your children. It is our JOY to watch each child grow in love for Christ, as individuals and as musicians. If there are any questions or concerns, please let us know. We promise to do our best to be a blessing to you and your family.